



Our Lady of the Way Primary School
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HOMework POLICY

Learning - Thinking - Choosing - Relating - Being

1.0 Rationale

Our Lady of the Way Homework Policy takes into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation and cultural pursuits. The responsibility for overseeing homework lies essentially with the parents. Homework need not be a cause of stress or upset for children or parents. The emphasis should always be placed on the learning value.

2.0 Aims

Our Lady of the Way places a great focus and energy on literacy, numeracy and inquiry learning skills. We desire that our students:

- cultivate a passion for reading, becoming highly effective readers and seeing reading as a foundational skill to powerful learning;
- acquire a love of Mathematics and becoming numerate learners by developing the knowledge and skills to use mathematics confidently across all areas of their lives;
- develop the skills of curiosity, creativity and innovation by extending and consolidating their learning beyond the classroom;
- become self-motivated learners to encourage life-long learning;
- involve all family members in their learning;
- develop learning based on personal interests and enjoyment;
- acquire independence in their study habits.

Through the home and school partnership, students have the opportunity to:

- improve comprehension; (students who read extensively learn reading strategies and increase their reading rates)
- make gains in overall language proficiency;
- increase vocabulary knowledge;
- improve writing and spelling skills;
- improve understanding of mathematical concepts and problem-solving;
- build fluency through the recall of factual knowledge and concepts;
- develop research and critical thinking skills
- develop time management skills.

3.0 Implementation

HOMEWORK IN KINDERGARTEN & YEAR 1

In Kindergarten and Year 1, homework involves reading a variety of home readers and quality literature as well as the quick identification of sight words and exposure to spelling patterns. In these foundational years children become better readers by practising reading.

Throughout the year, teachers will prescribe other home tasks from Key Learning Areas, including Religion that supports the learning occurring in the classroom.

Parents are encouraged to provide opportunities for their children to build fluency through counting games and using Mathematics in real-life situations around the home for 5–10 minutes each day. Children may also pursue other learning activities that spark their curiosity with their families.

The time suggested for homework for Kindergarten and Year 1 students, is approximately 15 - 30 minutes daily.

HOMEWORK IN YEAR 2

In Year 2, homework involves reading a variety of home readers and quality literature. Some children will need to work on the quick identification of sight words and exposure to spelling patterns.

Teachers will send home individualised spelling words that students have spelled incorrectly in their writing and provide suggested activities parents can do, to help their child learn these words.

Throughout the year, teachers will prescribe other home tasks from Key Learning Areas, including Religion that supports the learning occurring in the classroom. Tasks will be relevant to class learning and teaching activities and no task will be given for homework that the students do not have some prior experience of.

Parents are encouraged to provide opportunities for their children to build fluency through counting games and using Mathematics in real-life situations around the home for 5–10 minutes each day. Children may also pursue other learning activities that spark their curiosity with their families.

The time suggested for homework for Year 2 students, is approximately 15 - 30 minutes daily.

HOMEWORK IN YEAR 3 & YEAR 4

In Year 3 and Year 4, homework involves reading a variety of texts including quality novels, picture books, magazines, visual information, maps, tables, charts, diagrams, animations and digital texts, covering all areas of the curriculum. Teachers will provide guidance and assistance to students in choosing suitable reading material.

Teachers will send home individualised spelling words that students have spelled incorrectly in their writing and provide suggested activities parents can do, to help their child learn these words.

Throughout the year, teachers will prescribe other home tasks from Key Learning Areas, including Religion that supports the learning occurring in the classroom. Tasks will be relevant to class learning and teaching activities and no task will be given for homework that the students do not have some prior experience of.

Parents are encouraged to provide opportunities for their children to build fluency through the quick recall of number and table facts for 5-10 minutes each day. Children may also choose to pursue other learning activities that spark their curiosity with their families as well as continue with their learning topics from school.

The time suggested for homework for Year 3 & Year 4 students, is approximately 30–45 minutes daily. This time frame includes at least 15 minutes of reading.

HOMWORK IN YEAR 5 & YEAR 6

In Year 5 and Year 6, homework is an important part in developing good time management skills. Each student is given a diary to record homework, events, information and messages to and from parents.

Homework involves reading a variety of texts including quality novels, picture books, magazines, visual information, maps, tables, charts, diagrams, animations and digital texts, covering all areas of the curriculum.

Homework activities will be drawn from all Key Learning Areas including Religion. Tasks will be relevant to class learning and teaching activities and no task will be given for homework that the students do not have some prior experience of. Activities will be communicated via 'Google Docs.'

Parents are encouraged to provide regular opportunities for their children to build fluency through the quick recall of number and table facts as well as the spelling of unfamiliar words for 5-10 minutes each day. Children should also choose to pursue other learning activities that spark their curiosity, imagination and creativity with their families as well as continue with their learning topics from school.

***The time suggested for homework for Year 5 & Year 6 students,
is approximately 45-60 minutes daily.
This time frame includes at least 20 minutes of reading each day.***

It is the expectation that all children at Our Lady of the Way read each day at home.

4.0 Budget

No budget is required for this policy at this time.

5.0 Evaluation

The Principal, with delegated responsibility to the Leadership Team is responsible for the planning, implementation and review of this policy.

WHAT CAN PARENTS/CARERS DO TO ASSIST?

- **Take into account the need for your child to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation and cultural pursuits.**
- **Take an active interest in your child's reading.**
- **Be a good role model and read with and to your child.**
- **Support your child in setting aside time each day for homework.**
- **Provide a dedicated place and routine for homework if possible.**
- **Communicate with teachers any concerns about your child's approach and motivation to homework.**

Each afternoon when children get home, they are encouraged to participate in activities that connect their learning with life experiences. We know from research that when children make these connections, then true and long lasting learning takes place.

OUTINGS

Help plan a holiday/trip: research attractions, compare and contrast the costs, calculate daily distances if driving.

Grocery shopping: read ingredients to help choose the healthiest products for the best prices, find products that you have coupons for, figure out best deal between sizes of items.

Going shopping and computing how much 25/30/50% off would be on the sale price of clothes.

Go to a play or musical.

While in the car make up words using the letters and add up the numbers from the surrounding number plates.

SPORT

Play sports or after school activities.

Establish daily exercise plan: calculate distance walked, swam, biked, etc. and how many calories are used.

Spell words or do multiplication tables as you jump on a trampoline- one letter/number per jump.

Spell words or do multiplication tables as you play basketball. One letter/number per shot.

Spell words or do multiplication tables as you jump rope.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Swimming.

Relay races.

Learn and perform magic tricks.

Hopscotch.

Puddle jumping.

Go camping.

Name that rock.

Name that plant.

Name that insect.

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MATHEMATICS

Use homemade pizza, pie, pieces of bread to work on fractions.

Use a fish tank to discuss conversions: litres to gallons.

Create items for an "Estimation Table" where kids "estimate" how many items are in different containers with colourful objects.

Addition and subtraction of food on their plate during dinner. It works really well using vegetables!

Measure the time it takes to count to ten, one hundred, one thousand etc.

Count the steps it takes you to get to different locations in your house from the front door.

ARTS AND CRAFTS

Make a simple scribble and the other person turns it into a completed composition.

Origami (Japanese paper folding).

Make a family banner using handprints to tell about a family member.

Write a script from their favourite book, do research on the web to find out how to make puppets and produce a puppet show.

Build models, such as birdhouses, cars, etc. This activity requires organization tools, measuring, cutting, creativity, art, painting, neatness; the list goes on, and at the end, they have something they created, that can be used or enjoyed by them, birds, etc.

Create mosaics from bits of coloured paper.

Make birthday cards for relatives: recycle objects around the house and include a picture of the kids in the card to make the card extra special.

GAMES & ACTIVITIES

Reading out loud to each other.

Email relatives: this makes writing and spelling words fun.

Tic tac toe.

Checkers.

Watch a movie or show together on and talk about it after.

Cook as a family: include meal planning within a budget (cost, calories, nutrition), time it takes to create meal, etc.

Make a graph of TV/Video time for a month. Compare with sleeping and/or exercise.

Read the newspaper.

Junior Monopoly/Original Monopoly.

Read a book together, then watch the movie - compare/contrast the contents.